

REMARKS

Figure 3 of the drawing was objected to. A new Figure 3 is submitted to correct the complained of angle. The angle is the same as described in the specification, but the lead line has been moved to align with the chin support. The prior figure moved the lead line to be easier to see the angle.

Claims 1 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by United State Patent No. 6,277,053 to Desembrana. Desembrana does not show "mandible" support. It shows "cheek" support. The word "cheek" is repeated throughout the specification and the claims of the Desembrana patent. The word "mandible" does not appear. Further, comparing Figure 2 of Desembrana to Figure 1 of the current application makes the difference clear. Figure 2 of Desembrana shows that the mandible is clearly visible in the drawing, i.e. the strap does not support the mandible. This is made even more clear from the purpose of the device shown in the Desembrana patent, "Chin and Face Toning Strap." The strap is intended to support and tone the double chin and the flabby cheeks. The Desembrana strap also stretches, furthering that purpose.

The strap of the current invention, on the other hand, is meant for medical purposes to support the chin itself and the mandibles. The preamble of Claim 1 has been amended to state that the strap is "for preventing the airway obstruction of a user." Further, Claim 1 has been amended to add "when the strap is opened flat, it forms a generally uniform thickness in the general shape of a check mark." This makes it clear that the strap does not have the anything like the double chin support shown in Figure 1, Figure 2 and Figure 3 of the Desembrana patent. Finally, Claim 1 has been amended to add that the support for the chin of the user forms "an opening to receive the chin." This makes it clear that supporting the chin and the mandibles for medical purposes is the primary object of the current invention.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested. A request for extension of time

and a check to cover the fee are enclosed. Since the number and type of claims remain the same, no additional fee is required.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Thomas Timmons", written in a cursive style.

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